

Aspen Ranger District
806 W. Hallam
Aspen, CO 81611
(970) 925-3445—Voice
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United States Department of Agriculture



HIKING

CRESTED BUTTE
WEST MAROON TRAIL via SCHOFIELD PARK

Length: 11 miles one-way (17.7 km)

Trail Use: Heavy

Beginning Elevation: 9,580 feet (2920 m)

USGS Map(s): Maroon Bells, Snowmass Mnt.

Difficulty: Difficult

Highest Elevation: 12,500 feet (3810 m)

PERMIT INFORMATION: In order to provide quality recreation experiences and to protect the wilderness lands the Forest Service must gather data regarding visitor use and travel patterns. **Each party overnighting** in the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness is **required to self-register at the Trailhead and to carry a copy of the registration with them** during their visit. There is no fee charged and no limit to the number of permits issued.

DAY/BACKPACKING OVERVIEW: This is the shortest route to Crested Butte. It is more difficult than East Maroon and more popular. It offers magnificent views of the Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness area and vast fields of wildflowers. Campsites for backpackers can be found in the woods between crossings described in the West Maroon Pass trail guide. The trail ends at Schodfield Park, 14 miles from Crested Butte. The most popular transportation from the park to town is via taxi. Arrangements for the taxi to meet you can be made by calling the Crested Butte Chamber of Commerce. If trying to hitch a ride, turn left at the Schofield parking lot and walk down the dirt road to Emerald Lake. If unsuccessful, keep walking 7 miles to the town of Gothic which is 7 miles from your final destination. One can usually find a ride from Gothic. **PLAN ON STARTING THIS HIKE IN THE EARLY MORNING AS THUNDERSTORMS ARE COMMON AT THE PASS IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON.**

ACCESS: From mid-June through September, Maroon Creek Road is restricted to vehicles from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m beyond the T-Lazy 7 Ranch. Take the shuttle from Aspen Highlands Ski Area, which leaves every 20 minutes; dog are allowed on the bus.

The Maroon Bells Scenic Area is a recreation fee area; there is a *mandatory* fee. The Interagency, Senior & Golden Access Passes are honored. From the Hwy 82 Roundabout, just west of Aspen, take the Maroon Creek Road turn. In approximately one mile is Aspen Highlands, *turn left here for the shuttle!* If arriving during *non-bus hours*, continue another 4 miles to the Welcome Station. The use fee will be collected here, or in the fee tube immediately behind the station if un-manned; continue another 5 miles to the parking lot a Maroon Lake.

NARRATIVE: Use the trail guide for West Maroon Trail to West Maroon Pass. From the top of the pass a series of switchbacks desends from a steep scree field into meadows of magnificent wildflowers before the trail reaches the valley floor. A mile below the pass, the trail intersects with the Frigid Air Pass Trail which goes right. Continue straight following the trail as it curves through the valley and then bears left. About one mile below Frigid air intersection, the trail crosses a small stream and then intersects with the hasley Basin Trail to the right. Go left. In 2/3 of a mile another trail heads left, stay on the main trail. Here the trail climbs briefly through a meadow and then descends again. The trail is intersected again,

This map is intended for use as a general guide only, not for actual land navigation. The White River National Forest suggests purchasing a topographical trail map prior to your hiking trip.

continue straight. After a series of switchbacks the ruins of an old cabin appear. The parking area of Schofield Park is just minutes ahead beyond the woods which follows along the right side of a small stream.

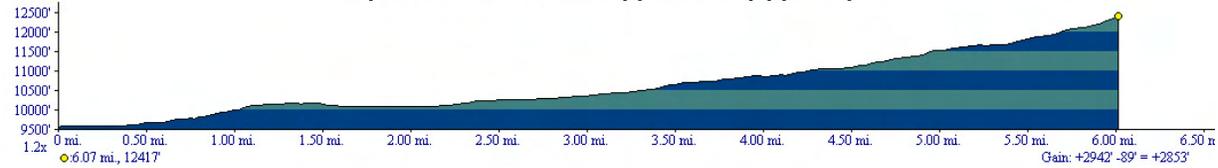
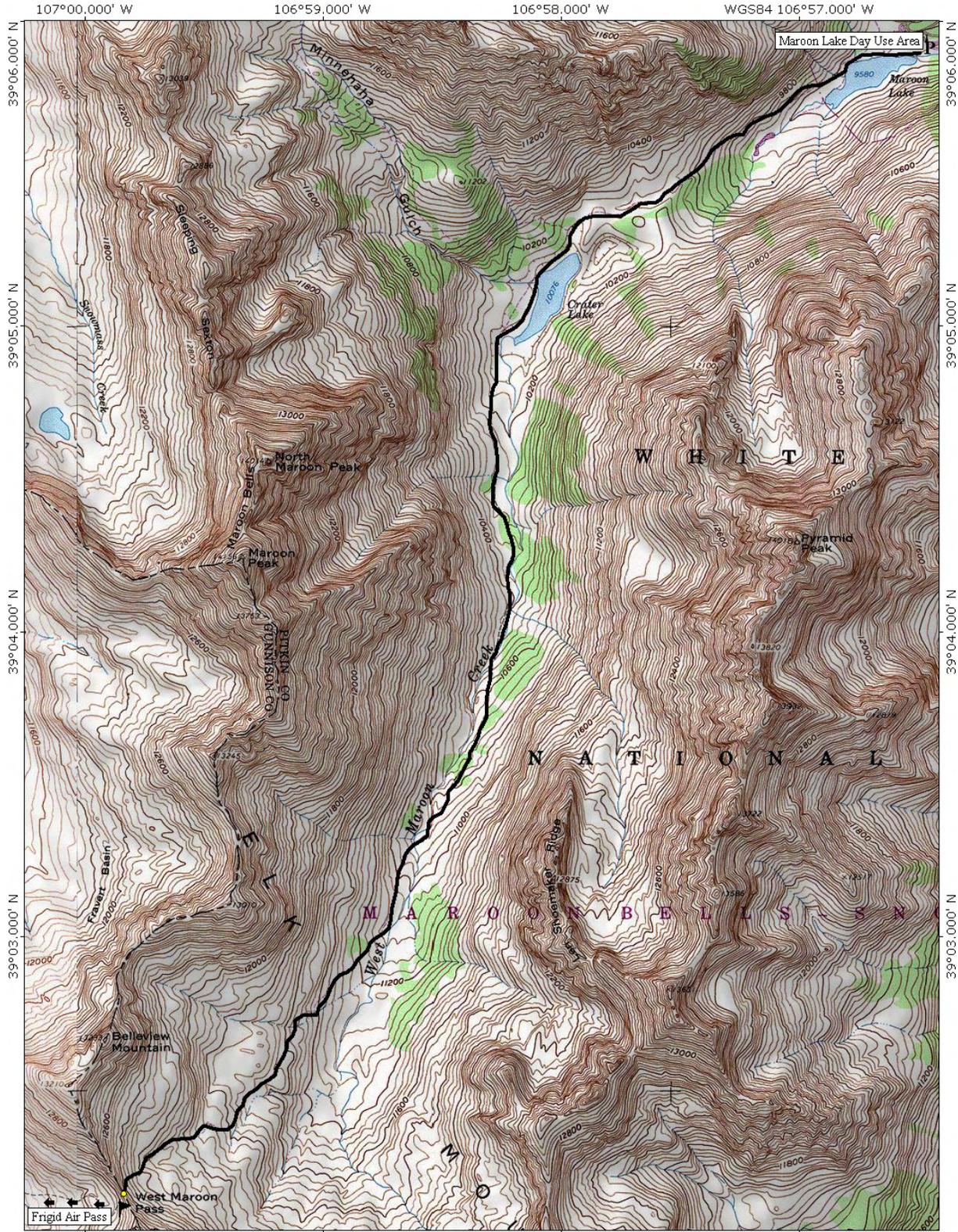
ETHICS/REGULATIONS: American Lake is within the Maroon Bell-Snowmass Wilderness; please educate yourself about Wilderness Ethics and the following rules:

- * **DOGS MUST BE LEASHED** out of consideration for both other people and wildlife.
- * Trash, **PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT**--even fruit peels!
- * Limit group sizes to 10 people and 15 stock/pack animals.
- * **SANITATION** - bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 inches in the soil.
- * No fires above 10,800 ft. Lightweight campstoves are recommended
- * **BEAR CANISTERS REQUIRED** for all overnight visitors. Approved bear canisters must be capable of holding all scented items (including toiletries, garbage, dog food, etc.) and should be stored on the ground and out of sight no less than 100 ft. away from any camp.

WILDERNESS AREAS are in a delicate state of natural balance, they are not renewable resources. Any careless act by man can upset this natural balance and result in the destruction of the beauty found in the Wilderness. By following the above ethics and regulations, you can help protect and preserve the natural features of the Wilderness for future visits. **PLEASE, RESPECT THE LAND AND RIGHTS OF OTHERS!**

PACK IT IN—PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!

ASPEN-SOPRIS RANGER DISTRICT WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST WEST MAROON TRAIL #1970



FOREST ORDER

**USDA - FOREST SERVICE
WHITE RIVER AND GUNNISON NATIONAL FORESTS
MAROON BELLS-SNOWMASS WILDERNESS**

Wilderness Occupancy and Use Restrictions

Pursuant to 16 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 551 and 36 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) §§ 261.50(a) and 261.50(b), the following acts are prohibited within the **Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness** of the White River and Gunnison National Forests, Pitkin and Gunnison Counties, State of Colorado, hereinafter referred to as the Restricted Area. The Restricted Area is further depicted on the attached maps, hereby incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A.

This Order is necessary for the protection of Wilderness character and resources and to protect human safety and property.

PROHIBITIONS:

1. Entering or being in the Restricted Area with more than 10 people per group or with more than 15 pack or saddle animals per group. 36 C.F.R. § 261.57(a).
2. Camping:
 - a) Within one hundred (100) feet of any lake, stream, pond, river or other similar body of water, or any National Forest System Trail;
 - b) Within ¼ mile of Conundrum Hot Springs, Copper Lake, Crater Lake, Geneva Lake, Capitol Lake, and Thomas Lakes, except at designated campsites. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(e).
3. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, or wood-burning stove:
 - a) Within one hundred (100) feet of any lake, stream, or National Forest System Trail;
 - b) Within ¼ mile of Crater Lake;
 - c) Above 10,800 ft. elevation, as shown on Exhibit A; 36 C.F.R. § 261.52(a).
4. Hitching, tethering or hobbling any pack or saddle animal:
 - a) Within one hundred (100) feet of any lake, stream, pond, river or other similar body of water or any National Forest System Trail;
 - b) Within ¼ mile of Crater Lake, Conundrum Hot Springs, or Snowmass Lake. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(aa).
6. Possessing a dog, except for working stock dogs and/or dogs used for legal hunting purposes, unless under physical restraint of a leash not to exceed six (6) feet in length. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(s).
7. Possessing a dog within the Conundrum Creek Valley from Silver Dollar Pond (2.25 miles North of Conundrum Hot Springs) to Triangle Pass (1.5 miles Southwest of Conundrum Hot Springs), including Conundrum Hot Springs, as depicted in Exhibit A. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(s).

8. Possessing, storing, or transporting any plant material, such as hay or straw.
Note: An exception is allowed for livestock feed that has been processed through chemical or mechanical means in a manner that will destroy viable seeds. Examples of excepted material include: pelletized feed and rolled grains. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(t)
9. Possessing or using a wagon, cart, or other vehicle including a wheelbarrow, bicycle or game cart. 36 C.F.R. § 261.57(h)
10. Shortcutting a switchback in a trail. 36 C.F.R. § 261.55(e)
11. Entering or being in the Restricted Area without a valid self-registration Wilderness Use Permit for each group or individual camping overnight. 36 C.F.R. § 261.57(a)
12. Possessing or storing any food or refuse as specified in the order in the Restricted Area. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(s).
EXCEPT WHEN:
 1. The food or refuse is "acceptably stored" or "acceptably possessed" during daytime hours;
 2. The food or refuse is being prepared for eating, being eaten, being transported, being prepared for acceptable storage, or is "acceptably stored" during nighttime hours.

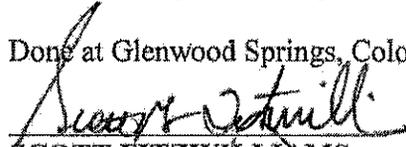
EXEMPTIONS:

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt:

- (1) Persons with a Forest Service permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
- (2) Any Federal, State or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force engaged in the performance of an official duty.

This Order shall remain in effect until rescinded, or until December 31, 2020, whichever event occurs first. This Order supersedes, replaces, and rescinds Order No. 2003-08.

Done at Glenwood Springs, Colorado, this 18th day of February, 2016.


SCOTT FITZWILLIAMS
 Forest Supervisor, White River National Forest

Done at Delta, Colorado, this 19th day of February, 2016.

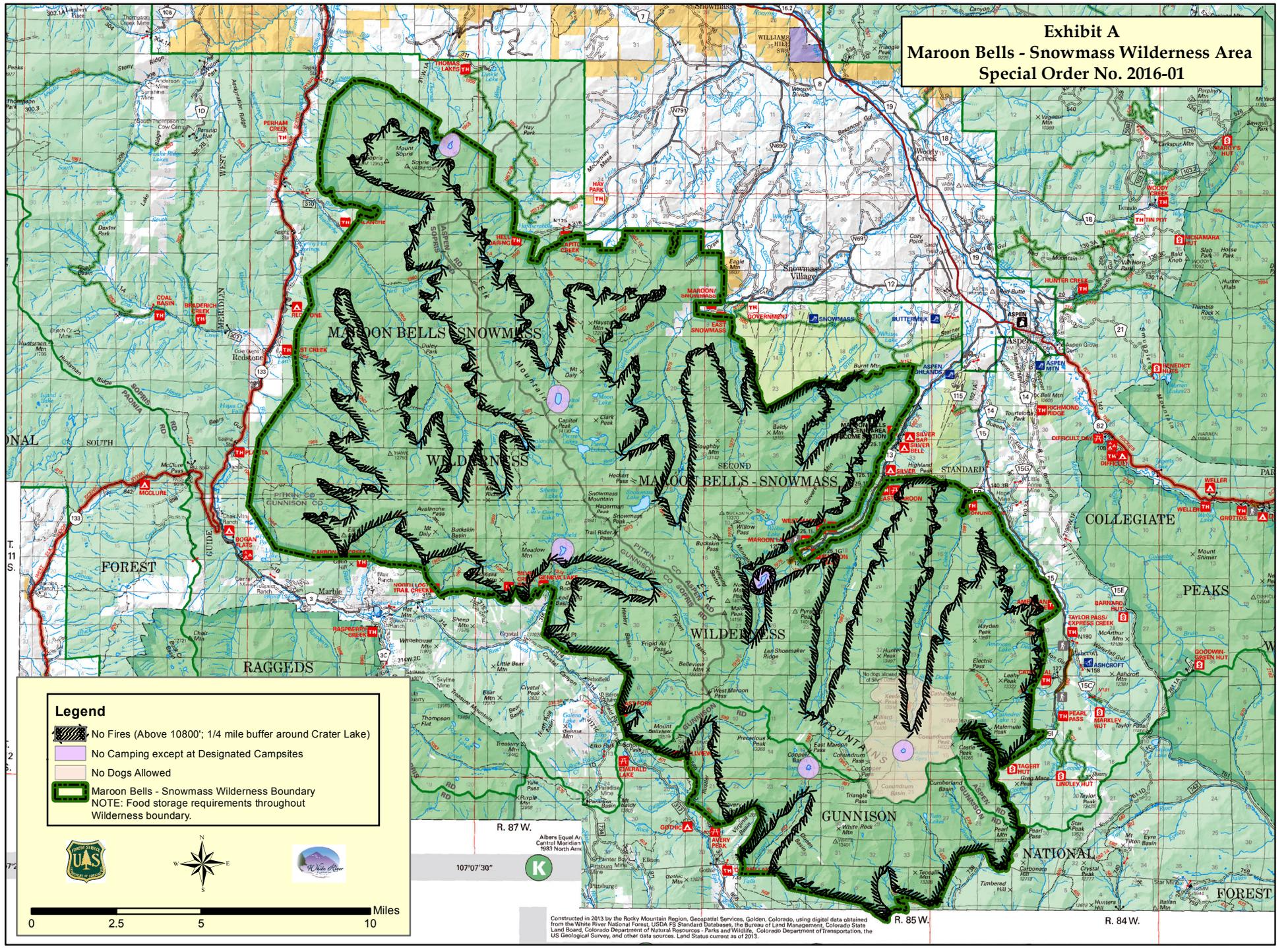

SCOTT ARMENTROUT
 Forest Supervisor, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests

Violations of these regulations is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor, by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both. 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559 and 3571

Definitions:

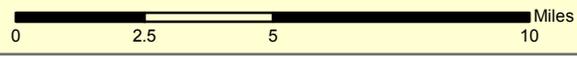
1. "Food and Refuse" means any substance, solid or liquid (excluding water) which is or may be eaten or otherwise taken into the body to sustain health or life, provide energy, or promote growth of any person or animal or any refuse which might attract bears. It includes items such as soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, canned foods, processed livestock feed and grains, personal hygiene products, and empty food and beverage containers and any item that may attract bears including, but not limited to, trash, food residue, garbage, pet foods/feeders, cooking utensils and equipment, cooking grills, personal care products, and coolers.
2. "Acceptably stored" means:
 - A) Stored in bear-resistant container certified through the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Courtesy Inspection Program.
 - B) Stored by other methods approved in a permit issued by the Forest Supervisor responsible for the area where the method is proposed for use.
 - C) Meat carcasses or game parts harvested by hunting that occurred legally under Colorado State Hunting Laws are more than 100 yards from overnight camping site.
3. "Acceptably possessed" means possessed or attended during daytime by a person that is physically present within 100 feet and direct sight of the accessible food, refuse, or item.
4. "Daytime" means ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset, Mountain Time.
5. "Nighttime" means ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise, Mountain Time.

Exhibit A
Maroon Bells - Snowmass Wilderness Area
Special Order No. 2016-01



Legend

- No Fires (Above 10800'; 1/4 mile buffer around Crater Lake)
- No Camping except at Designated Campsites
- No Dogs Allowed
- Maroon Bells - Snowmass Wilderness Boundary
 NOTE: Food storage requirements throughout Wilderness boundary.



R. 87 W.

107°07'30"



Albire Equal Ar. Control Meridian 1983 North Arm

R. 85 W.

R. 85 W.

R. 84 W.

Constructed in 2013 by the Rocky Mountain Region, Geospatial Services, Golden, Colorado, using digital data obtained from the White River National Forest, USDA FS Standard Databases, the Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Land Board, Colorado Department of Natural Resources - Parks and Wildlife, Colorado Department of Transportation, the US Geological Survey, and other data sources. Land Status current as of 2013.